

Message Text

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ACTION CPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7742

INFO AMCONSUL POZNAN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OCLR, US, PL

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION BY EAGLE IN OPERATION SAIL 1974

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECIEVED A LETTER FROM ROMUALD PIETRASZEK, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, EXTENDING AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FOR THE COAST GUARD TRAINING SHIP EAGLE TO PARTICIAPTE IN THE INTERNATIONAL OPERATION SAIL 1974, INCLUDING A COPENHAGEN-GDANSK REGATTA AND FESTIVITIES IN THE LATTER CITY. THE LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 8, SPECIFICIALLY LINKS THE REGATTA TO PRL 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. ALTHOUGH THE LETTER OMITTS MENTION OF THE LUBLIN MANIFESTO OR OF SPECIFIC DATES, THE CENTRAL PRESS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE ARRIVAL IN GDANSK IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14-15. THIS IS, OF COURSE, ONLY A WEEK BEFORE THE MANIFESTO ANNIVERSARY ON JULY 22, WHICH WILL CLEARLY BE THE APEX OF THE GENERAL CELEBRATION THIS YEAR.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO HAS A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR THOMAS ESTES AT THE UNIIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND WHO INDICATES HE IS HELPING FRIENDS IN NEWPORT WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR A POLISH SAILING SHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR BICENTENNIAL CLELBATIONS. ESTES SAYS HE HAS CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT THIS AND IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS ATTENDING THE LUBLIN MANIFESTO CLELBRATION. HE IS FURTHER AWARE THAT PARTICIPATION OF A POLISH SHIP HAS BEEN LINKED TO OUR PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION SAIL 1974 BUT HOPES WE

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CAN SOMEHOW NAVIGATE AROUND THIS SHOAL.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES WE ARE UPWIND OF THE POLES ON THIS ISSUE, SINCE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN OUR SHOW IS PROBABLY, IN THE LONG RUN, MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN OUR JOINING THEIRS. WE FEEL THAT WHEN, SAY A YEAR FROM NOW, WE BEGIN DISCUSSING WITH THEM SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT LIKE TO SHARE IN OUR CELEBRATION, THEY WILL BE PREPARED TO SWALLOW THEIR PRIDE AND SEND "DAR POMORZA" TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR REGATTA, EVEN THOUGH WE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THEIRS.

4. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE EMBASSY POLITELY AND REGRETFULLY DECLINE THE POLISH INVITATION FOR EAGLE TO JOIN OPERATION SAIL, EXPLAINING THAT EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES OF OPERATIONAL EXIGENCIES PREVENT THIS.

5. RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM INDICATE THAT THE POLES MAY NOT EVEN RAISE THE LINK WITH OUR BICENTENNIAL. HOWEVER, IF THEY DO, WE ARE PREPARED TO INDICATE FULL WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND RECIPROCITY BY JOINING WITH THEM IN CELEBRATING THEIR BICENTENNIAL AND TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT MENAWHILE THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN OURS.
DAVIES

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